

NEWS RELEASE

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***BRKFST Dance Company Launches Rimon's New Salon Season***

**Minneapolis**—The *Rimon* Artist Salon Series opens its eleventh season with *Breaking Free: BRKFST Dance Company @ JSB TEK BOX* on Sunday, November 5, 1 p.m., at the TEK BOX in The Cowles Center for Dance (528 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis). Admission is \$12 (\$6 for ages 36 and under or for dancers and choreographers) and may be reserved by contacting the *Rimon* office at 952-381-3449 or online at [www.rimonMN.org](http://www.rimonMN.org). Sign language interpretation is available upon request with 10 days advance notice.

Dance innovator Lisa “MonaLisa” Berman and her break dance-inspired company BRKFST bring high-energy performance and provocative ideas to any stage or public space they occupy. *Rimon*'s acclaimed Artist Salon Series features BRKFST, one of the Twin Cities' newest dance companies, in performance and in conversation with singer-songwriter Adam Levy on cultural identity and pushing boundaries in urban art forms.

Lisa “Monalisa” Berman has been working as a dancer, choreographer, and instructor for the past 13 years and has had the opportunity to train and perform across the globe. She is the recipient of a 2016 McKnight Dancer Fellowship, administered by The Cowles Center and funded by the McKnight Foundation. A recipient of the Jerome Travel and Study grant for choreography, Lisa trained, choreographed, and performed in association with Hip Hop Huis in Rotterdam, Netherlands. She is the founder of BRKFST Dance Company and is currently working with Victor Quijada, founder and Artistic Director of RUBBERBANDance Group, for work to be performed in September, 2018. As an instructor, she currently teaches breaking at the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, is the resident Hip Hop teaching artist for The Cowles Center, and is resident choreographer for Breck School.

Adam Levy is a singer-songwriter, guitarist, producer, social activist, educator, and parent. He is probably best known for his nearly 20 years of work as lead singer-songwriter for The Honeydogs. His songwriting is musically expansive, exploring styles as diverse as American roots music, psychedelia, soul, world, jazz, and classical music. Paste Magazine once said Levy's songwriting captured "the zeitgeist of our time." Adam's lyrics reflect his years in social work, his commitment to social justice issues, and a lifelong interest in history, culture, and political matters. Adam has also embarked on numerous side-projects in the last five years: electronic experimental music with Liminal Phase; orchestral chamber pop with And The Professors; children's music with Bunny Clogs; '60s and '70s soul and funk with Hookers \$ Blow; and early-mid 20th century jazz with Rose Room.

BRKFST Dance Company was founded in 2014 and is comprised of seven performers, each with distinct training backgrounds, aesthetics and specialties. As individuals, each member has been dancing in their respective forms for over a decade. As a collective, BRKFST members converge to create collaborative dance works by teasing the edges of breakin', martial arts, burlesque, and contemporary dance vernacular, bringing the many voices and backgrounds of the dancers into a new movement expression. At times intensely physical and chaotic, at other times precise and contemplative, BRKFST Dance Company is both intellectually and emotionally stimulating in producing work that is re-contextualizing the vocabulary of movement.

The *Rimon* Artist Salon Series is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. It is also funded in part by a gift from Bruce Goodman and an anonymous gift in memory of David Tychman.

*Rimon* is an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation. Its Artist Salon Series has been called "one of the leading series of Jewish events in the country."

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